

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 813

By Kumar

A RESOLUTION relative to Civil War monuments in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, monuments memorializing Civil War heroes, throughout Tennessee, depict an integral part of the history of our State; and

WHEREAS, these monuments were erected to honor and celebrate these leaders of their time; and

WHEREAS, certainly the same monuments bring deep emotional pain to Tennesseans whose ancestors suffered from the horrors of slavery; and

WHEREAS, these monuments also bring pain to those who are sympathetic to the cause of freedom for all and uphold the belief that "all men are created equal"; and

WHEREAS, there have been strong demands and efforts to demolish these Civil War monuments or move these to a museum, away from the public eye; and

WHEREAS, other Tennesseans want to preserve these memorials of history as they are and oppose efforts to rewrite or whitewash the events of our history; and

WHEREAS, truly, this is a situation where one person's hero is the other person's villain; and

WHEREAS, for Americans and Tennesseans to heal this divide, both sides must be respected; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the General Assembly that our State should openly recognize the events of our history, and endeavor to unite our people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we suggest that the Tennessee State Capitol Commission consider:

(1) Identifying each Civil War monument in the Capitol and on its surrounding grounds;

(2) Installing appropriate signage near or make additions to the monuments identified under subdivision (1) that provide historical and modern context for the monument. The signage or additions should provide an accurate and balanced view of the monument; and

(3) Erecting a monument celebrating a person or event related to the Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee or the United States near the Civil War monuments identified under subdivision (1) that is similar in size and construction to the Civil War monument. The monuments erected pursuant to this subdivision (3) should contain signage or inscriptions providing historical and modern context for the monument with an accurate and balanced view of the monument.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Bill Lee and each member of the Tennessee State Capitol Commission.